Inspection of stores by DGS&D

3143. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA :
SHRI GOPALSINHG. SOLANI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there are a number of inspecting organisations carrying out inspection of stores contracted by DGS&D ;

(b) if so, whether all such agencies have adequate work load;

(c) if not, what is the justification of continuing several such agencies; and

(d) whether Government propose to review the policy in this regard in the context of efficiency economy and accountability?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Inspection of stores against DGS&D contracts is normally undertaken by the Inspection Wing of the DGS&D. However, in some cases the indenting Departments insist on inspection being carried out by other agencies in view of specialised and exclusive nature of items. Inspection of such items is, therefore, entrusted to these agencies, for instance, the inspection of stores for Defence indentors is normally done by Director General Quality Assurance (DGQA), Ministry of Defence. Similarly, for certain exclusive items required by Railways the inspection is carried out by RITES (Ministry of Railways).

(b) It may not be possible to comment upon the adequacy of work load with the agencies other than the Inspection Wing of the DGS&D who are carrying out inspection of stores against contracts placed by the DGS&D. So far as DGS&D Inspection Wing is concerned the figures (valuewise) of inspection carried out against DGS&D wing inspect contracts and against non-Departmental orders during the last 4 years are as under :—

Year	DGS&D orders	Non-Departmental orders (Direct Orders)	Total (Value Rupees in Crores)
1989-90 .	1,138.86	738.29	1,877.16
1990-91 .	1,434.58	721.00	2,155.50
1991-92 .	1,144.20	766.02	1,910.22
1992-93 . (Upto December 92)	723.92	674.93	1,398.90

(c) The roles of Inspection Wing of DGS&D and that of Inspection agencies working under other Ministries of the Government are not comparable. The inspection agencies under different Ministries have been set up with well defined roles and objectives. Their expertise and functioning does not always overlap with each other.

(d) No, Sir.

Minimum exports price for rice

3144. SHRI S. AUSTIN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have fixed minimum exports price of rice for 1993-94 ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this has adversely affected the export of rice; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) Currently, the Minimum Export Prices for basmati and non-basmati superfine rice are US $ 550 per Metric tonne and US $ 225 per Metric tonne respectively.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Annual turnover of MMTC

3145. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :

SHRI TRILOK NATH CHATURVEDI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the annual turnover of MMTC during each of the past three years :

(b) what is the present level of trade handled by MMTC with Russia and other former Soviet Republics and Europe and what steps are being taken to regain the old level of the trade; and

(c) what other new avenues are being explored by MMTC to gain the lost ground?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) The anual turnover of

MMTC Ltd. during the past three years has been as under :

(Rs. in Crores

Year	Turnover
1990-91 . .	5622.98
1991-92 . .	8115.77
1992-93 (Prov.) .	4995.71

(b) and (c) The present level of trade handled by MMTC with Russia, other CIS Republics and Europe during 1993-94 are as under :

(April-July)

	Import (Rs. (Crores)	Export Rs. (Crores)
Russia . . .	22.33	4.35
Other CIS Republics	0.49	0.42
Europe . . .	—	26.19

Deputation of Business Delegations, establishment of liaison officers, and warehouses in Moscow and Alma-Ata are some of the steps being taken by MMTC to boost exports to this region.

Training of youths in Gem cutting and polishing

3146. SHRI MUTHU MANI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any action to train youth in Gem cutting and polishing;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government plan to give 25% subsidy to the entrepreneurs involved in gem industry on the machinery used for gem cutting and polishing, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Training in gem/diamond cutting and polishing is being imparted at various institutes which include the Indian Diamond Institute, Surat, the Gemstones Artisan Training School, Jaipur and the Indian Gemmological Institute, New Delhi.

(c) No, Sir. However, some machinery and equipment used by exporters of gem and jewellery can be imported at a concessional rate of duty of 25%.

Border trade between India and Myanmar

3147. SHRI G. G. SWELL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have conveyed to the Chief Minister of Manipur that border trade between India and Myanmar would soon be opened;

(b) whether an agreement to this effect has been signed with Myanmar; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) The Government had informed the Chief Minister of Manipur that the proposal to regularise the border trade between India and Myanmar was under consideration.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Agreement with China for supply of construction material

3148. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI :
SHRI IQBAL SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India has offered a variety of construction material including steel, granite etc. to China;

(b) if so, whether offer was made by the Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission and ex-Commerce Minister ; and

(c) if so, whether any agreement in this regard was reached with Chinese Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The suggetion was made by Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and the then Commerce Minister during his recent visit to China in the first week of June, 1993. Chinese side agreed to consider it.